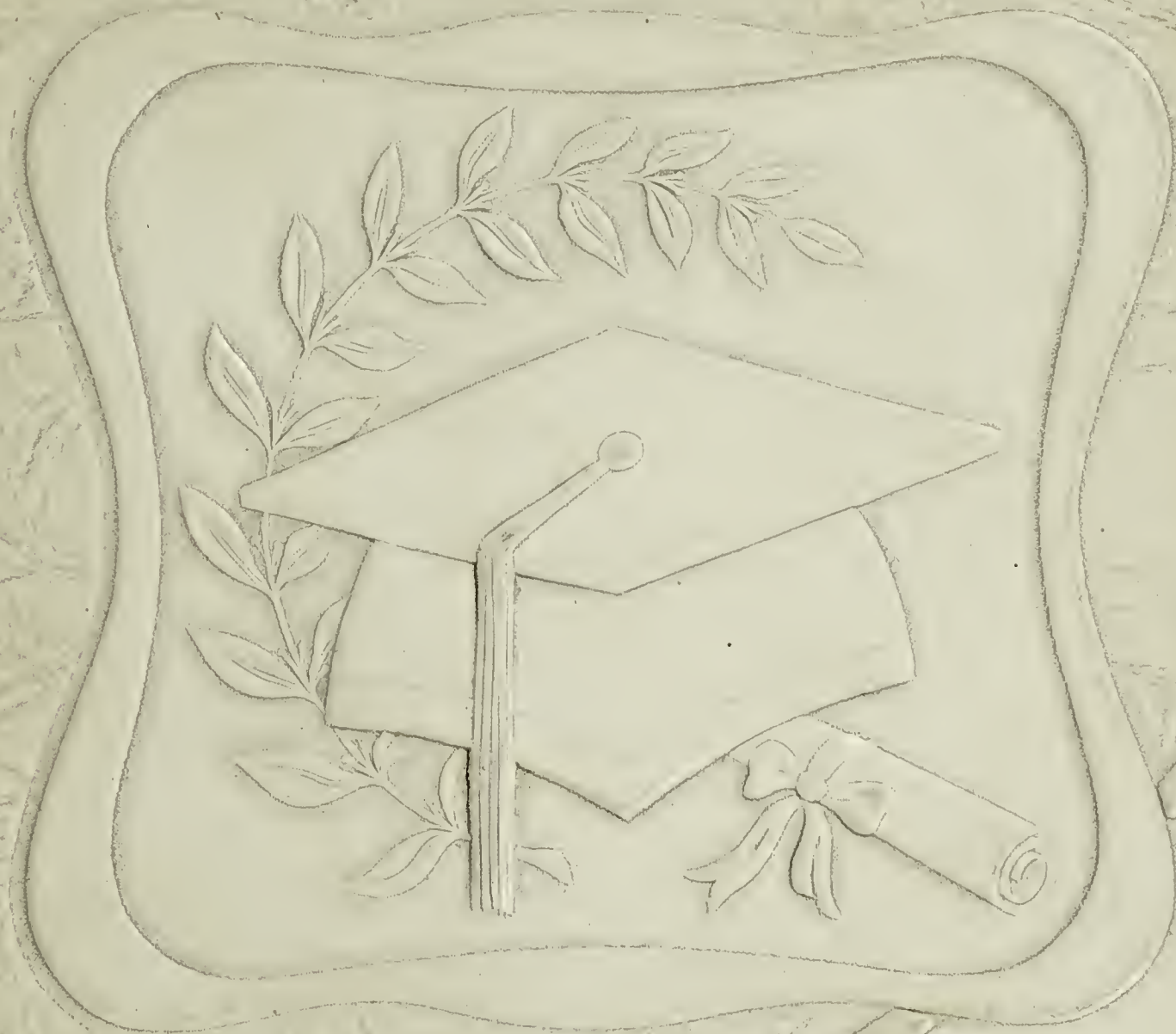


1 9 5 9



EXCELSIOR

Palmer Mary
Foreword

"Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime
and, departing leave behind us, FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME."



No other sentence, or group of sentences could better explain our belief about our stay at Richmond County High School.

The Yearbook Staff wishes to express its appreciation to the Principal, Mr. W. H. Mackey, for his faith in us and to Mrs. M. L. Sampson whose guidance has inspired us.

This book is precious to us. We have shared the many experiences shown. We have enjoyed working on the yearbook and each page is representative that our school is making "FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME."

The Yearbook Staff

1543734




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<https://archive.org/details/excelsior1959rich>



DEDICATION





In appreciation for all that you have done
for us, we dedicate our Yearbook to.....

Mrs. Rachel P. Young

our former Science and Physical Education
Instructor.

We, the members of the Student Council &
the Senior Class, hope in some way that
this will show our love and admiration
to you. You have taught us to overcome
our weakness and to accomplish some of
our goals. The inspiration that you
gave us will always be among our most
treasured possessions. We know that
you are still serving as a guide to
youth and we want you to know that we
think of you constantly and wish for
you the best of everything, for cer-
tainly you have given your best to
us.



Dedication



ADMINISTRATION

Principal's Message

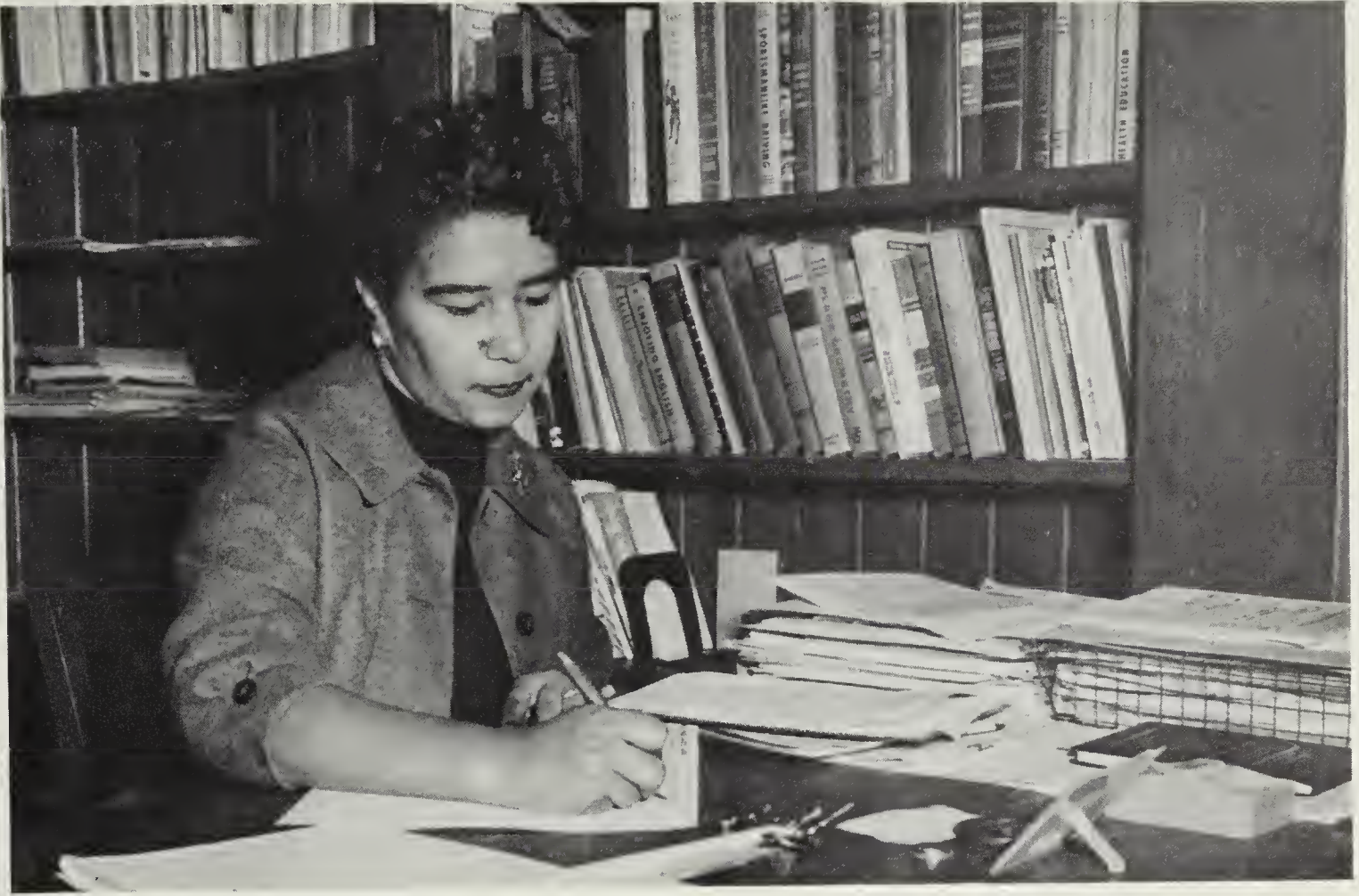
The publication of a yearbook by a small rural high school is usually a "one-time project" in the experience and memory of faculty and students once the task has been undertaken. This is generally so because practically all of the work of ad gathering, page layout, typing, picture taking and countless numbers of other details are thrown into the lap of the faculty sponsor who becomes all but overwhelmed when full realization of the task becomes evident. "I'll never try that again", is the sponsor's usual sigh of relief when the last layouts are submitted.

From observation and a knowledge of release time granted students in connection with yearbook activities, publication of our yearbook was pupil initiated, pupil planned, and pupil executed, from beginning to end, under the competent guidance of our faculty sponsor, Mrs. Meta T. Sampson. Thus, the project provided for pupils many experiences in the area of planning, organization, salesmanship and development of self-confidence, initiative, self-expression, and understanding and appreciation of each integral part which goes to make up a composite situation which the yearbook itself represents. Provision for such practical learning experiences for pupils is directly in keeping with one of the school's purposes.

With a knowledge of the fact that many of the pupils comprising the Student Council, who undertook this project, are the same ones who enjoyed working to publish our first yearbook in 1957. I salute the Student Council of 1959 and its very capable president, Miss Verona Saunders, for a job well done.

W. H. Mackey

Guidance Inspires Students



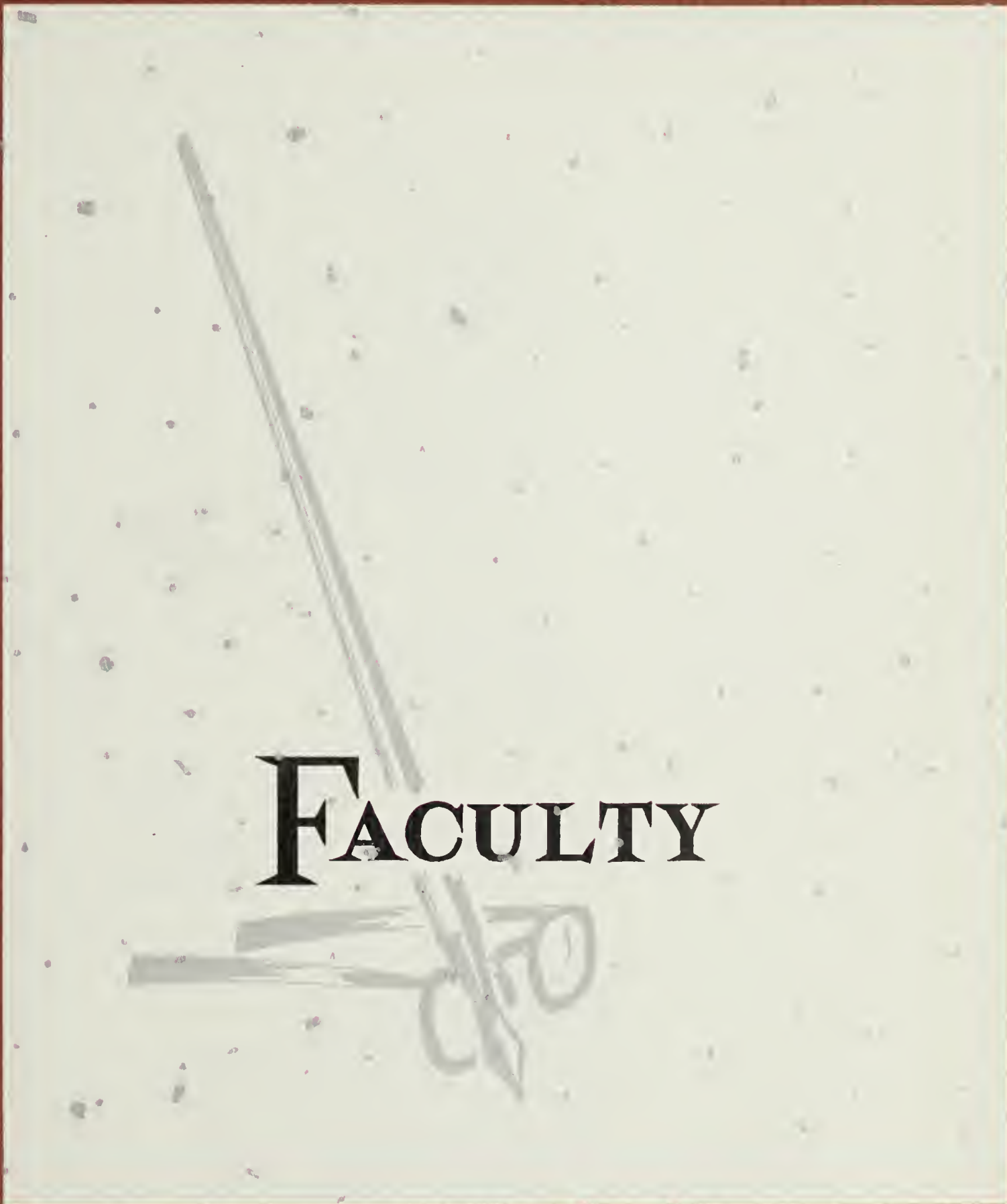
It is my honest belief that within each boy and girl, there is the will to accomplish some worthwhile goal. Unless these boys and girls are guided, understood and helped, they may get on the wrong road. Students need the help of parents and teachers if they are to make the correct adjustments.

Today's youth, like youth of yesterday and tomorrow, have problems. These problems may differ in nature and scope, but in reality, they are basic.

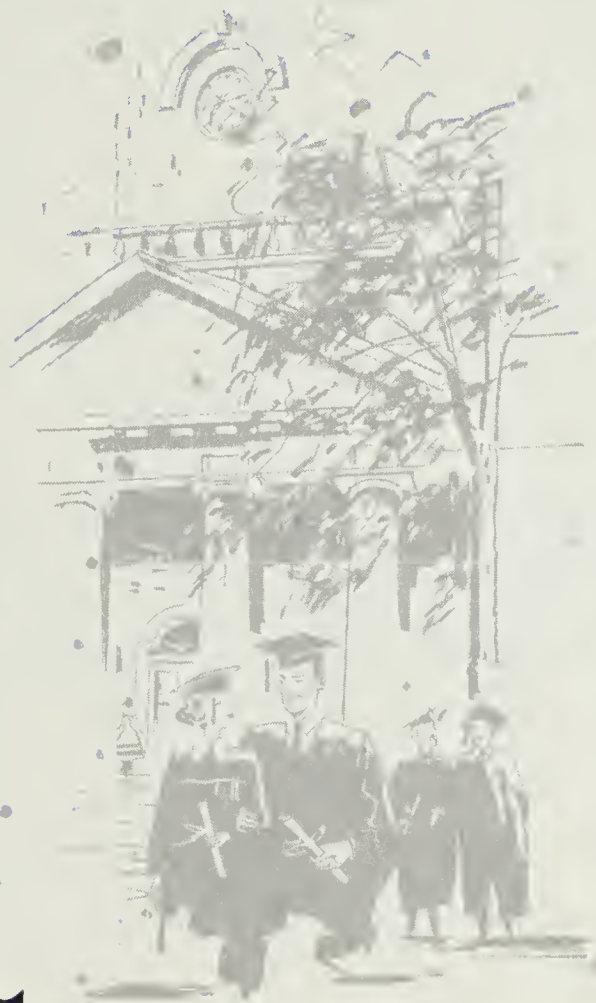
We, at Richmond County High School, try to help students adjust to high school.

Each week a period is provided for guidance. Homeroom periods serve as group guidance periods. Orientation periods are planned. We are ever cognizant of the need for guidance and try to work with our students to lead them to a full, rich life.

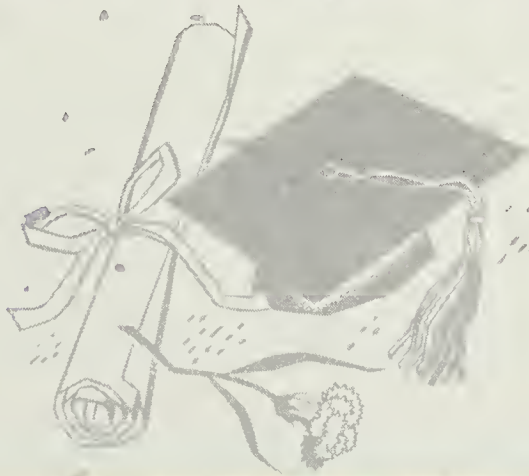
Mrs. Meta T. Sampson



FACULTY



SENIORS





Senior Class Officers: Left to Right: Ryland Lee, Sgt.-At-Arms; Geraldine Carter, Treasurer; Barbara Burrell, Assistant Secretary; Verona Saunders, President; Martinmar Taylor, Parliamentarian; Yvonne Thompson, Vice-President; and Francis Veney, Secretary.

Class Motto

"The Sky Is The Limit To Success"

Class Flower

Camellia

Class Colors

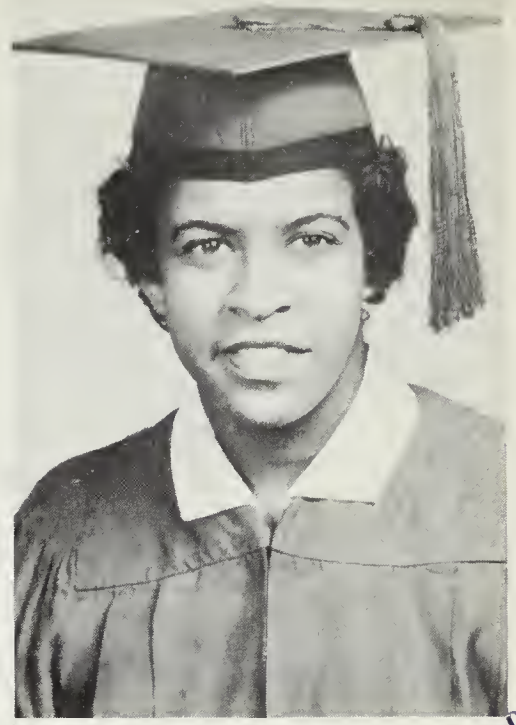
Navy Blue and White

Seniors



Shirley Ann Brown
"Shirl"

Band
N.H.A.



Barbara Jean Burrell
"Pie"

N.H.A.



Nettie Burrell
"Tea"

Student Council
Tri-Hi-Y Club
N.H.A.
Public Speaking Club



Geraldine Carter
"Gerry"

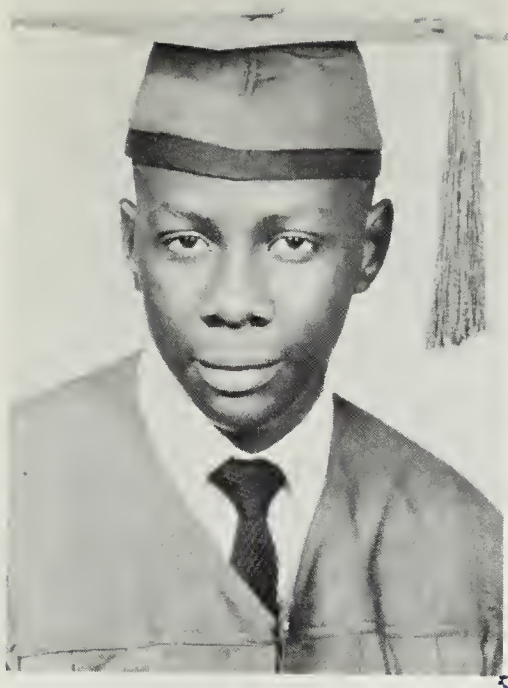
N.H.A.
Englibra Club
Choir



Ellington Churchill
"Duke"

Band
Math. Club

Seniors



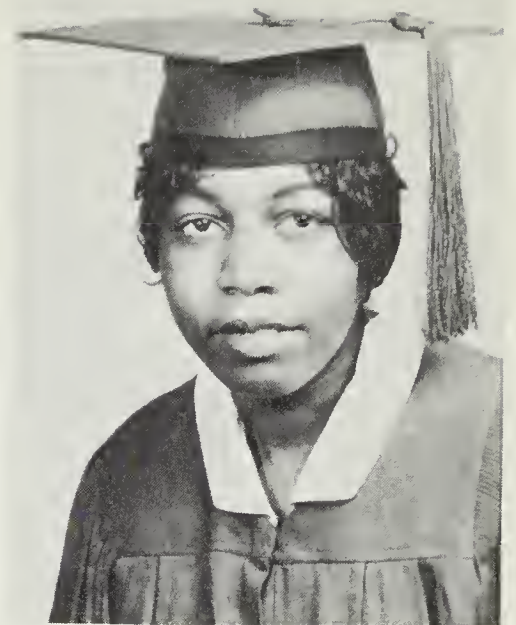
Christopher Jackson
"Charlie"

N.F.A.
Safety Patrol
Ind. Arts Club



Ryland Lee
"Mr. Lee"

N.F.A.



Dorothy Laws
"Dot"



Helen Maiden *Rich Reed*
"Polly"

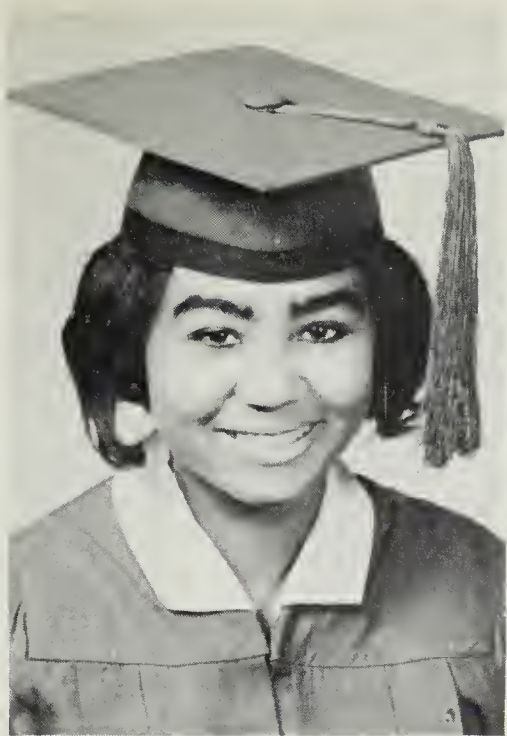
Student Council
Public Speaking Club
Dramatics Club
N.H.A.



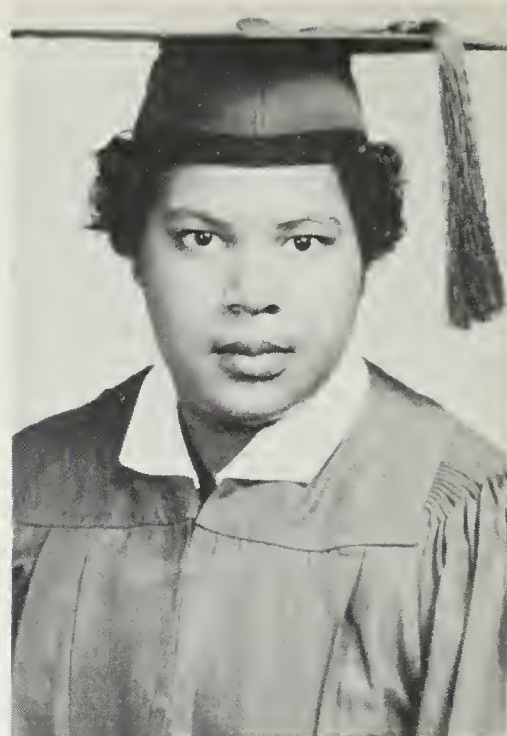
Sandra Roane *Jones*
"Sis"

Band
Dramatics Club
Public Speaking
N.H.A.

Seniors



Leatha Robinson
"Lee"



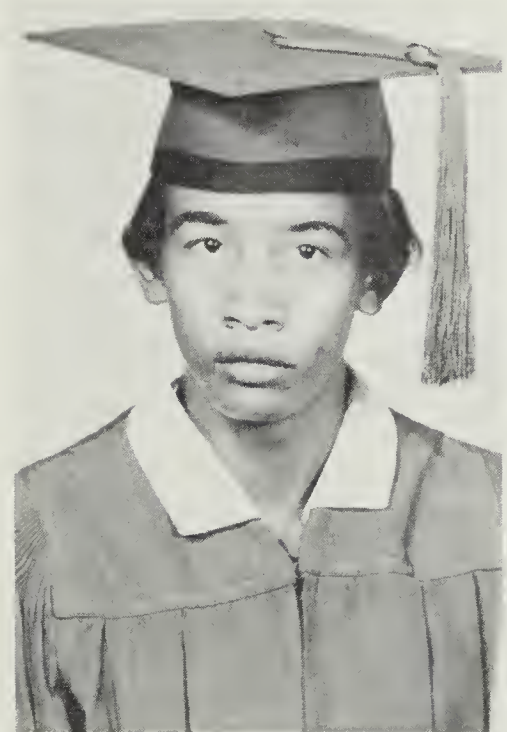
Helen Verona Saunders

Student Council
Tri-Hi-Y Club
Public Speaking Club
N.H.A.
Band



Roberta Shelton
"Bert"

N.H.A.



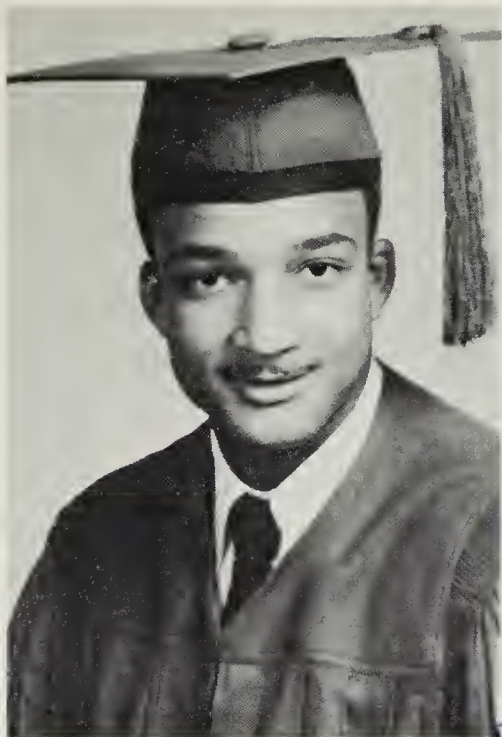
Ernestine Sorrell



Shirley Sumiel
"Sherry"

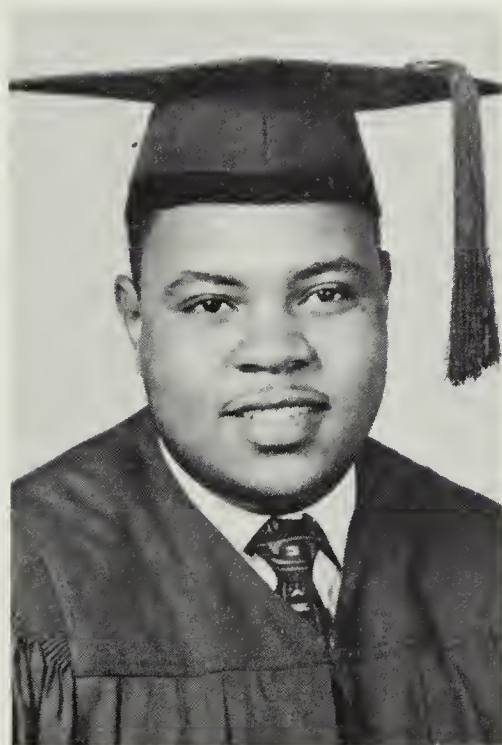
Dramatics Club

Seniors



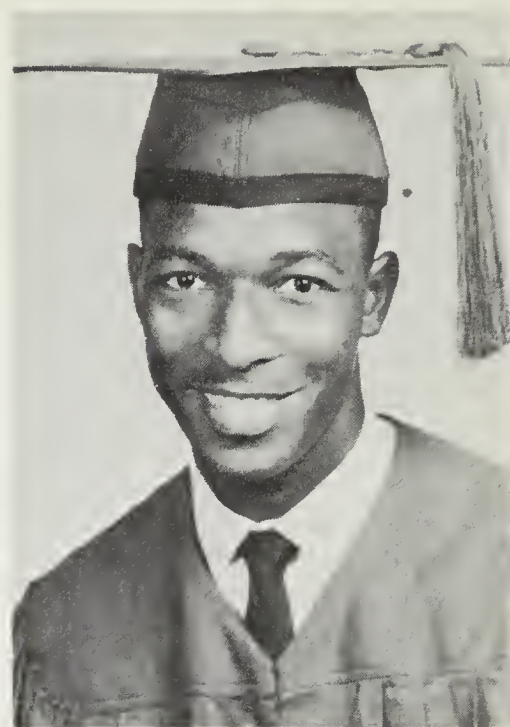
Levern Sydnor
"Slim"

N.F.A.
Baseball
Student Council
Tri-Hi-Y Club



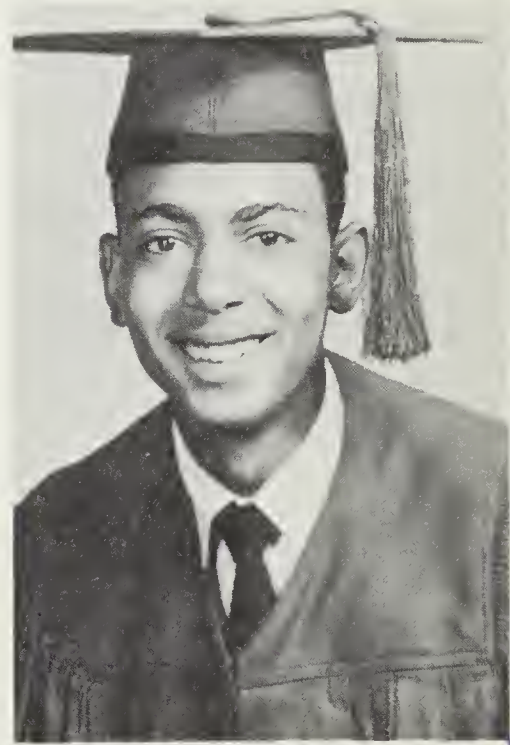
Louis Thompson
"Rogie"

N.F.A.
Band
Ind. Arts Club



Martinmer Taylor
"Mart"

N. F. A.
Student Council
Ind. Arts
Baseball



Thomas Thompson
"T.T."

N.F.A.
Safety Patrol
Tri-Hi-Y Club
Baseball

N.H.A.
Band
Baseball
Ind. Arts Club

Students, under the instruction of Mr. Preston Sampson, learn to type with speed and accuracy.



Mrs. Pickens, Art Instructor, watches students as they work on art projects.

Seniors



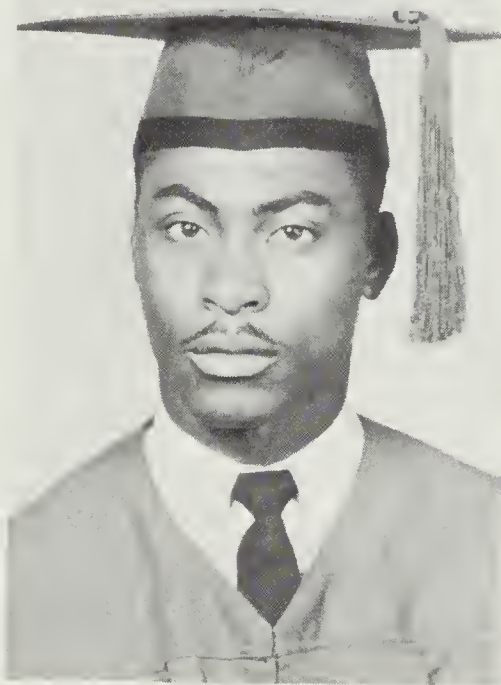
Yvonne Thompson
"Vonnie"

Band
Student Council
N.H.A.
Softball
Dramatics Club



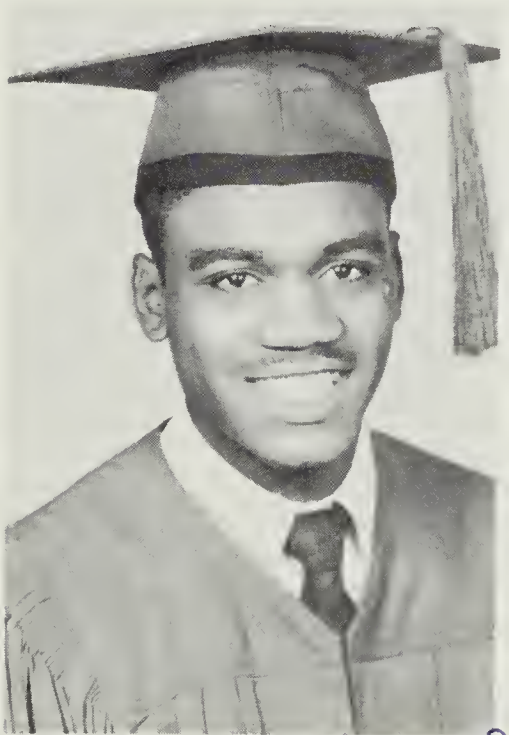
Frances Veney
"Frankie"

Student Council
Tri-Hi-Y Club
Softball
Public Speaking Club



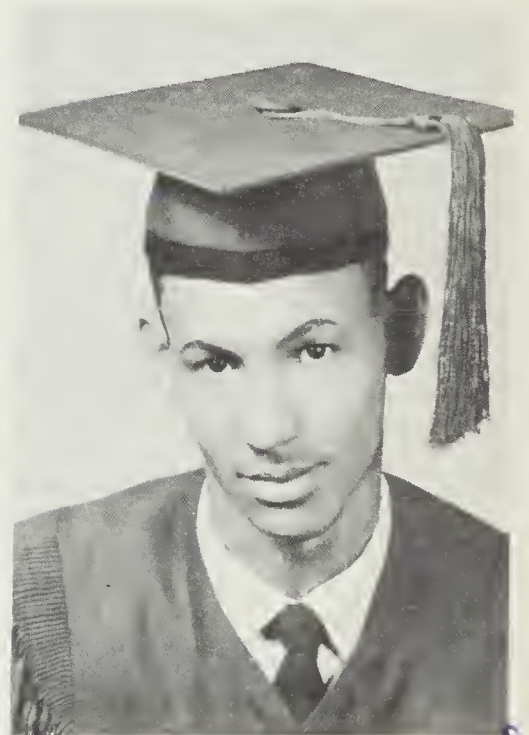
Howard Wood

Student Council
N.F.A.
Baseball
Ind. Arts Club



Carrington Woody
"Pecker"

Science Club
N.F.A.
Baseball
Ind. Arts Club



Clinton Wormley
"Puggy"

N.F.A.
Ind. Arts Club
Baseball

Senior Class History



In September of 1954, Richmond County High School opened its doors to 63 students, full of fun and hopes for the future. As we entered the Eight Grade, we began to realize the importance of learning and we soon settled down and started to work. Geraldine Carter was selected as Class President. Miss Meta Turner was our homeroom teacher.

The year passed swiftly and we found ourselves in the Ninth Grade. Our homeroom teacher was Miss Camilla Carter. Verona Saunders, President of the class, led us thro the year.

Time passed on and we became Tenth Graders. Mrs. Rachel Young, our homeroom teacher, kept us busy, however, we enjoyed it. We gave programs for the Physical Education Department. Our president was Barbara Burrell.

In 1957, we became Juniors. Mr. Saunders became our homeroom teacher and Levern Sydnor was president. This was a most exciting year. We attended the Junior-Senior Prom. We ordered our rings with the expectation of becoming Seniors.

We entered the Twelfth Grade, full of dreams. We realized that we now stood on the threshold of the large world. We selected Verona Saunders as President. Mr. Sampson is our homeroom teacher. This year climaxes our stay at Richmond County High School. Although we entered with 63 students, we have only 25 in our present class. As we look over the past, we are certain that the years spent at Richmond County High School have been most rewarding and inspiring.





Senior Class Will

We, the class of 1959, of the Richmond County High School, do hereby make and declare this to be our last will and testament.

To our school, we leave our devotion and our loyalty.

To our community, we leave high moral ideas.

To our faculty, we leave gratitude, and love for all the help, understanding and inspiration you have given us. May we prove by our lives that your efforts to help us were not in vain.

To the Junior Class, we leave our ability to know the best, and to strive for it, ever realizing that only the best is good enough for the world in which we live.

To the Sophomore Class, we leave our ability to cooperate with others as we have done for the past five years.

To the Freshman Class, we leave our determination never to quit but to reach the stars through difficulties.

To the 8th. Grade, we leave our ability to work hard and to always do our best.



This Is It



The Ideal Boy

Eyes.....Clinton Wormley
 Physique.....Levern Sydnor^h
 Personality.....Thomas Thompson^w
 Sense of Humor.....Howard Wood^t
 Smile.....Charles Thompson^d
 Brains.....Ellington Churchill
 Musical Ability....Louis Thompson
 Clothes.....Martinmer Taylor
 Hands.....Carrington Woody
 Executive Ability.....Ryland Lee
 Patience.....Christopher Jackson



The Ideal Girl

Brains.....Frances Veney
 Personality.....Yvonne Thompson
 Voice.....Verona Saunders^w
 Sense of Humor.....Helen Maiden
 Figure.....Shirley Brown
 Clothes.....Dorothy Laws
 Smile.....Nettie Burrell
 Hair Style.....Barbara Burrell^w
 Face.....Geraldine Carter^w
 Dancing Ability.....Sandra Roane
 Hands.....Roberta Shelton
 Eyes.....Leatha Robinson
 Patience.....Shirley Sumiel^h
 Cheerfulness.....Ernestine Sorrell



JUNIORS






The 11th. Grade Class is headed by the following from left to right: Delores Sorrell, Treas., Joan LeVere, V-Pres., Lee Esther Johnson, Pres., Vivan Darby, Secretary and Dorothy Pettiford, Assistant Secretary.



The Junior Class, under the Direction of Mr. Saunders, is working hard.



SOPHOMORES



FRESHMEN





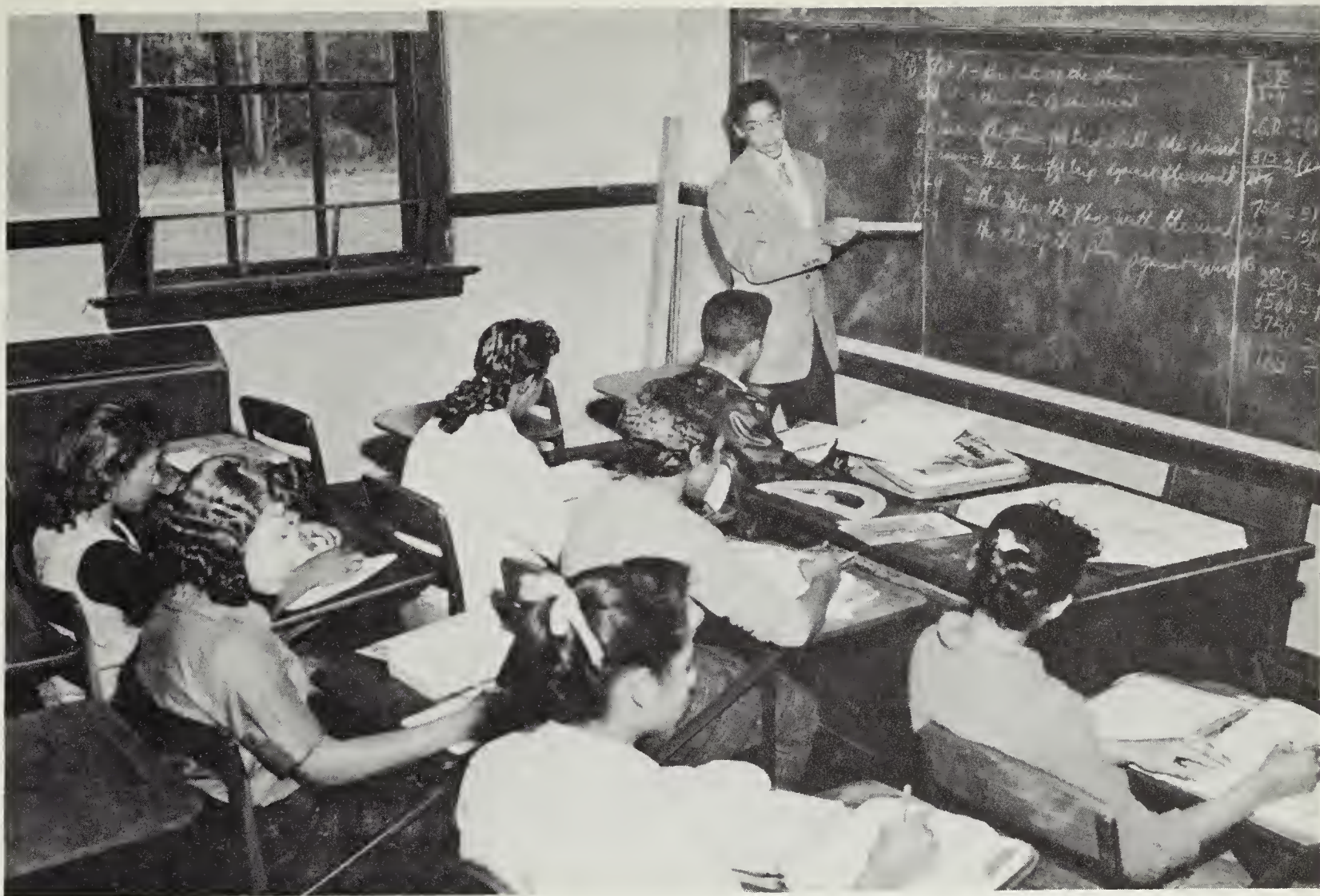
The 8th. Grade Officers are: William Wood, Gatherine Dunaway, Jaunita Johnson, Carrie Ball, President, Mary Taylor, Lois Saunders and Evelyn Young.



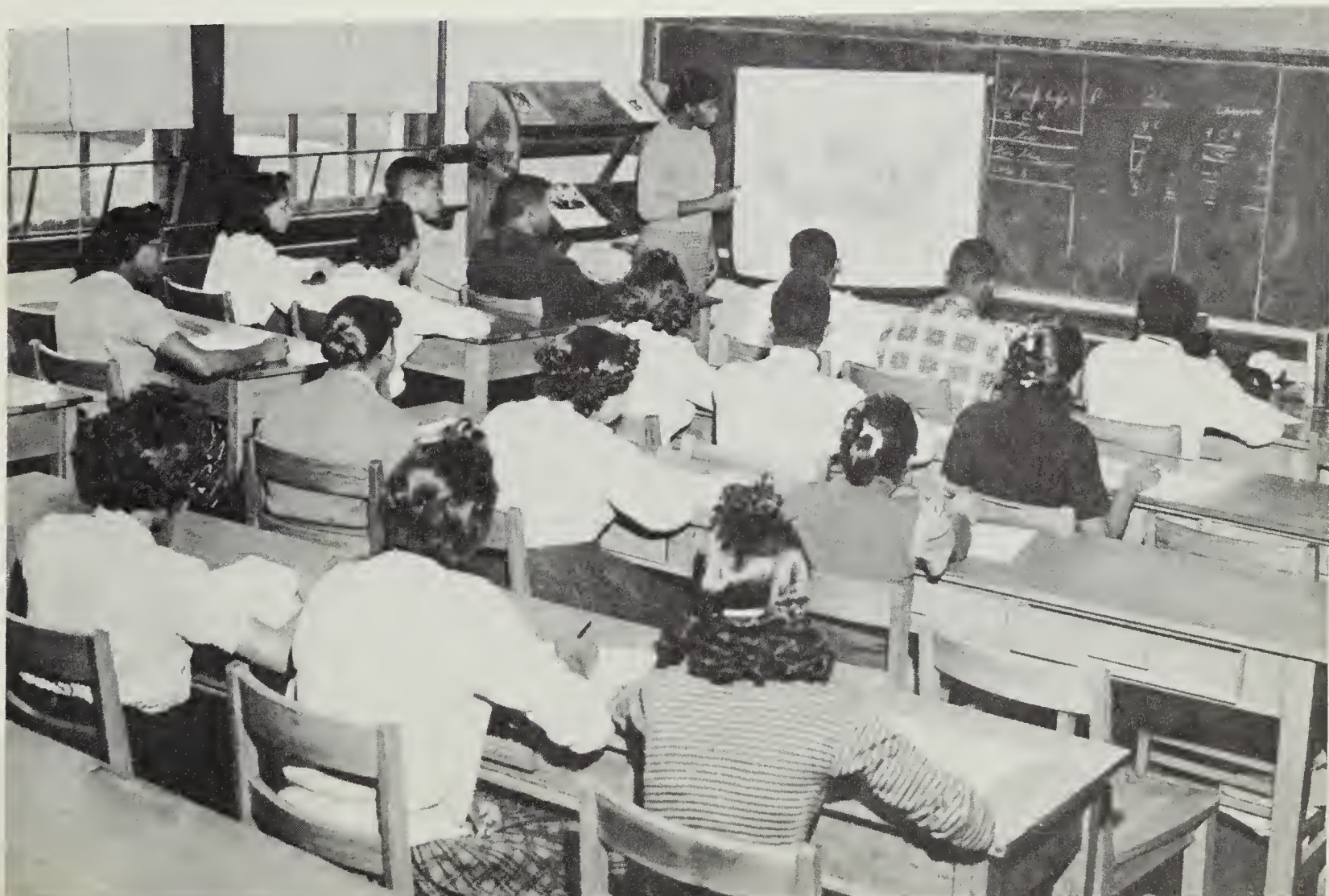
These students find high school an interesting and challenging experience. Mrs. Meta Sampson is the homeroom teacher.



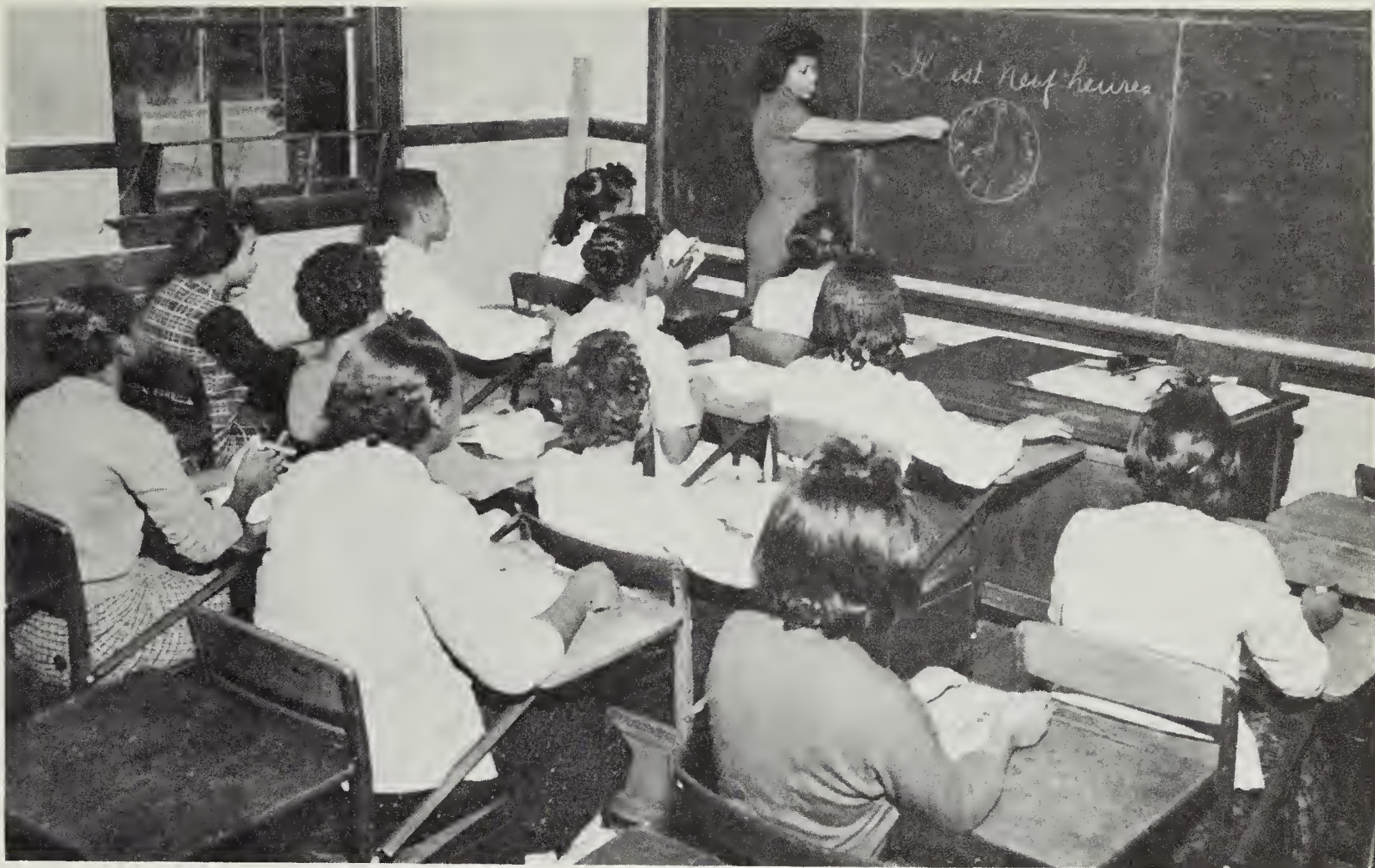
Ex LIBRIS



Ellington Churchill, a senior, explains an Algebra problem. Mr. Mackey is the instructor.



Delorise Sorrell explains and discusses a United States Map. Mrs. Meta Sampson is the instructor.



French is a new subject in our school curriculum. Here students learn to tell time in French under the direction of Miss Alexander.



The English Class, under the direction of Miss Alexander, enjoys their native tongue and realizes that good expression is a most worthy aim.



Today Science plays a major part in our everyday lives. General Science students perform an experiment. Mrs. Virginia Brown instructs.



These students realized that Science is important. They have enrolled in Chemistry and find it a most rewarding subject.

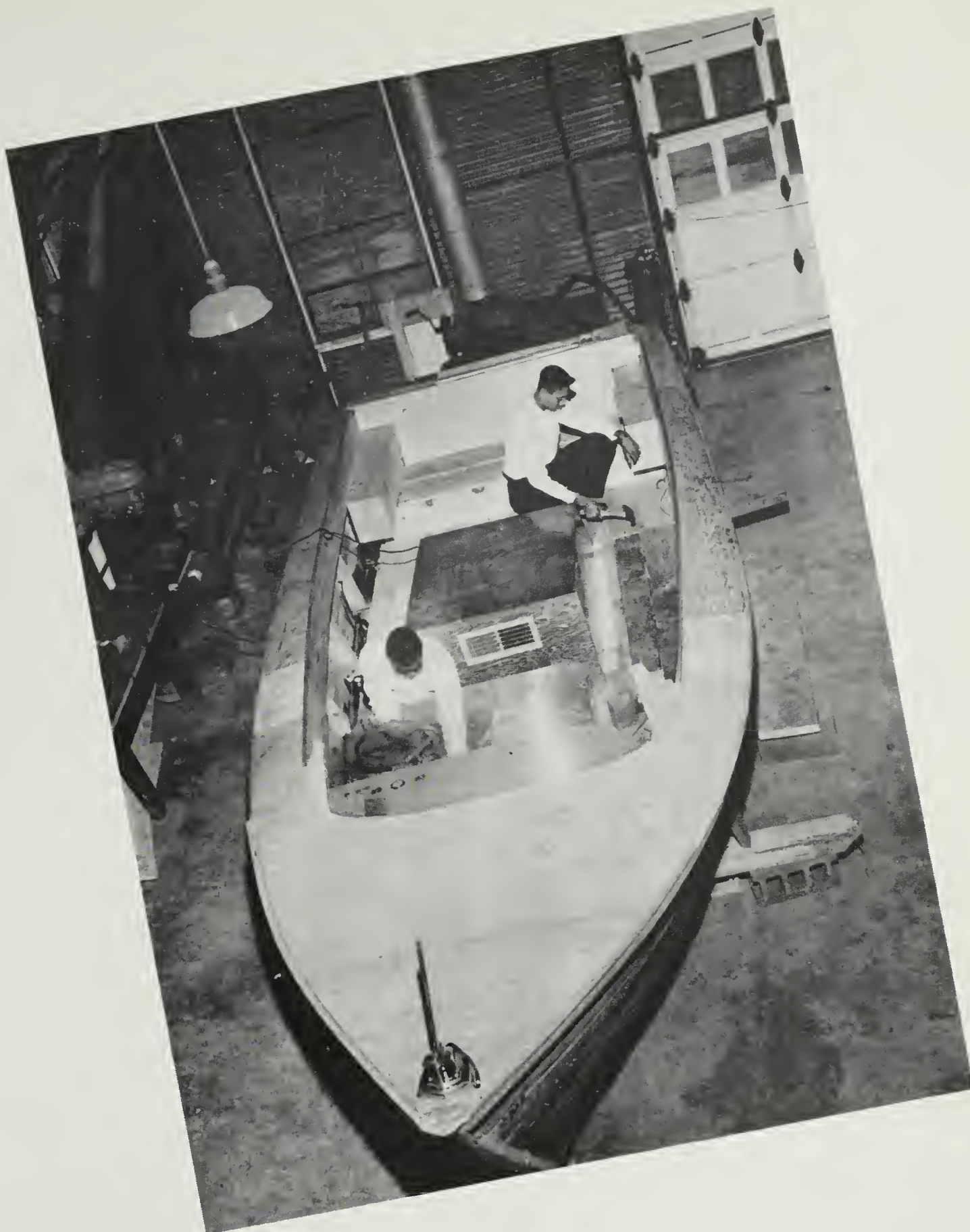
Home Economics Department



Girls in Home Economics learn many things. Cooking and sewing are just a few of the skills the girls acquire. Students are taught proper cleaning techniques, family living and child care.

Here Bettye Johnson sews as Doris Sydnor watches.

Ernestine Burrell uses her skill to make the bed properly.



This boat was built by students under the direct supervision of Mr. Lloyd Saunders. This is a most beautiful boat and its beauty and useability is a credit to Mr. Saunders and his boys in Shop.



Boys interested in learning Agriculture study their books while Mr. Walker checks to help them.



Driver Education is a most interesting part of Physical Education. Mr. Saunders prepares to take these girls out for test of driving skill.

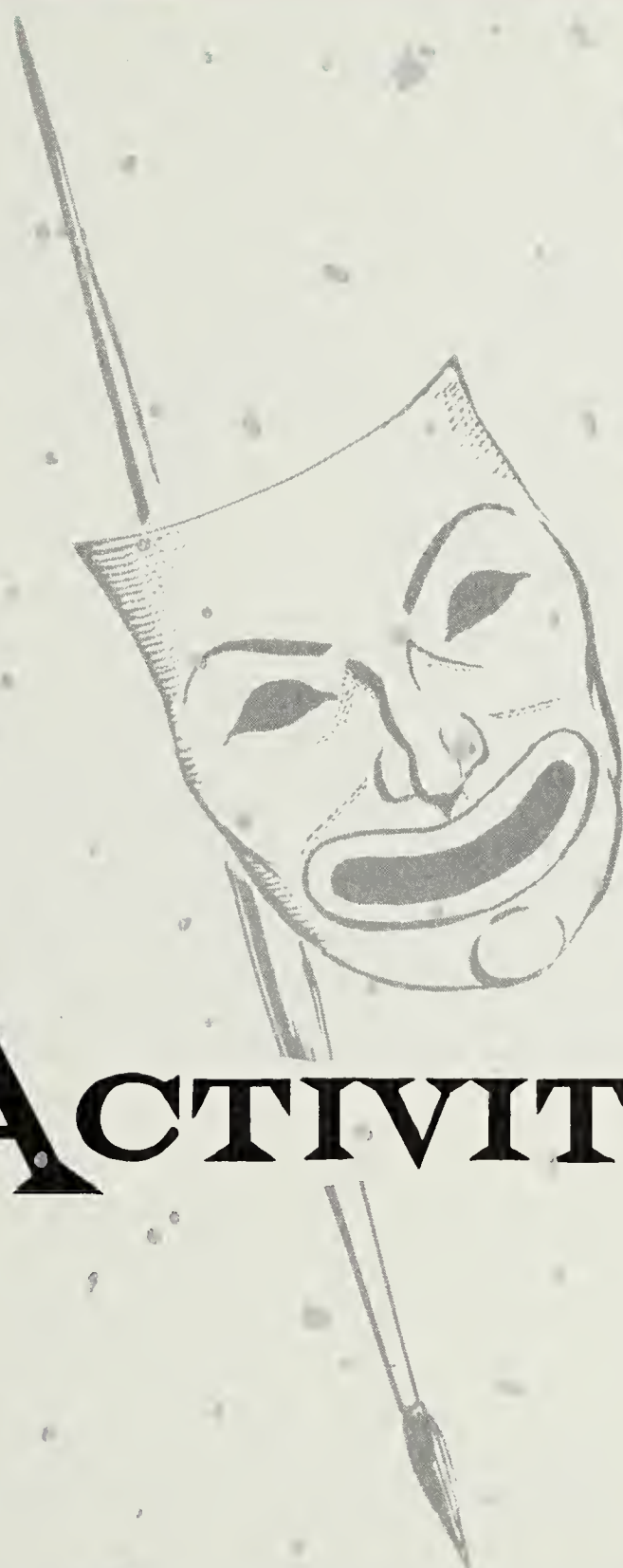
Band Officers



The following are the Band Officers of the Richmond County High School.
From Left to right they are:

Verona Saunders	-----	Treasurer
Clarence Burrell	-----	Assistant Secretary
Yvonne Thompson	-----	President
Howard Wood	-----	Vice President
Joan LeVere	-----	Secretary

The Band has participated in various parades and will participate in the District Music Festival. The Band is under the direction of Mr. Douglas Anderson.



ACTIVITIES

Student Council



The Student Council Organization is composed of representatives from each home room. Each one is dedicated to the school, its aims and goals.

We believe that Richmond County High School is a fine school and each day we strive to make it even better.

Seated from left to right are: Frances Veney, Betty Johnson, Helen Maiden, Secretary, Allen^o Norris, Helen Saunders, President, Lavern^u Sydnor, Parliamentarian, Rubyⁿ Brown, Nettie^w Burrell, Vice President, Yvonne Thompson, Assistant Secretary. Standing from left to right are: Cynthia Lee, Vivian Darby, Reporter, Howard Wood, Shirley^w Kelly, Martinmer Taylor, Treasurer and Lois Saunders.^o

Yearbook Staff



The Staff of the Richmond County High School "Excelsior" is as follows:
Seated from left to right are: Frances Veney, Reporter; Sandra Roane, Lay-Out Editor; Yvonne Thompson, Editor-in-Chief; Verona Saunders, Business Manager; Levern Sydnor, Artist; Geraldine Carter, Typist. Standing from left to right are: Helen Maiden, Cynthia Lee, Martinmer Taylor, Reporter; and Nettie Burrell, Assistant Editor. Howard Wood, Reporter was omitted from picture.



These are the Officers of the Richmond County High School N.H.A. under the direction of Mrs. A. T. Nichols, Instructor.

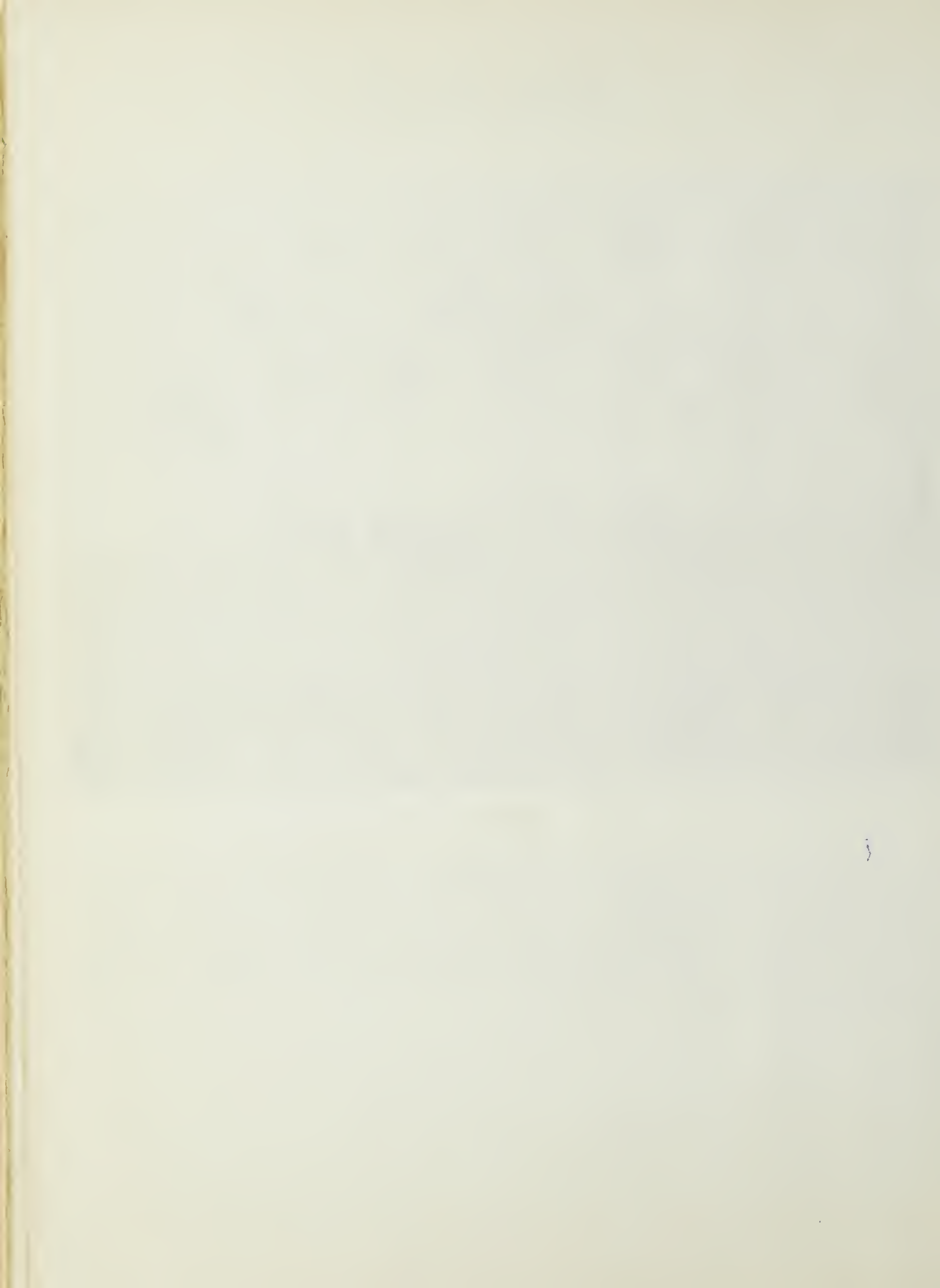


The following are officers of the N.F.A. They are from left to right: Allen Dunaway, Sec., Martinmer Taylor, V-Pres. Charles Thompson, Treas., Samuel Veney, Reporter and Levern Sydnor, Pres.

Safety Patrol



The Safety Patrol is an organization designed to make the school a fine place. These boys and girls attempt to encourage each student to do his best to make Richmond County High School a fine school. The members of the Safety Patrol direct fire drills, help with bus safety and patrol the corridors during lunch. On several occasions, the members of this organization have appealed to the students to improve school spirit and to obey all rules. Mrs. Brown is the director of the group.





The Public Speaking Club is designed to help students improve their speaking ability. Mrs. Meta Sampson is director.



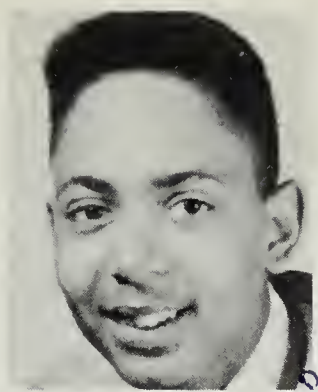
The director of Dramatics, Mrs. Meta Sampson, provides opportunities for students to express themselves in the Dramatics Arts.



The Tri-Hi-Y Club strives to teach students high moral and spiritual standards. Miss Bettye Alexander is the Advisor.



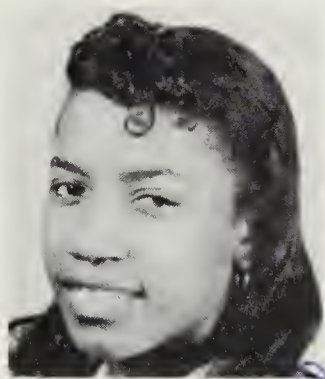
The Englibra Club is directed by Miss Bettye Alexander. The Club is designed to help students understand the proper way to use the library.



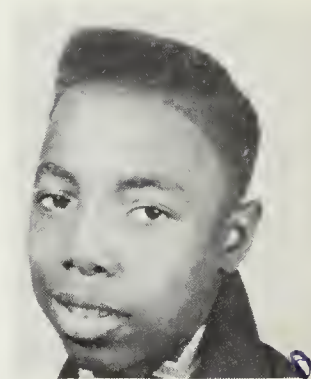
Thomas Thompson
"Everybody's Pal"



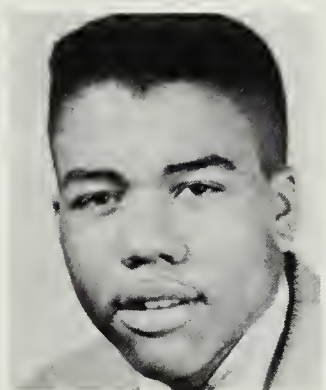
Joan Levere
"A Charming Girl"



Winona Mackey
"An Excellent Student"



George Brown
"Drummer Boy"



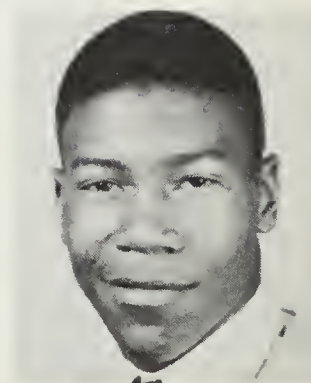
Samuel Veney
"A Typical Boy"



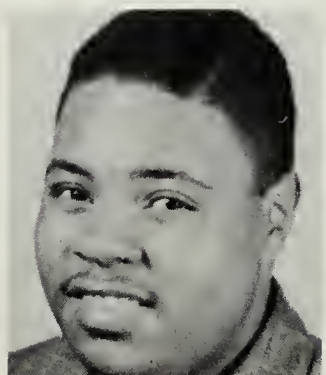
Helen Maiden
"An Entertaining Student"



Sandra Roane
"A Fine Actress"



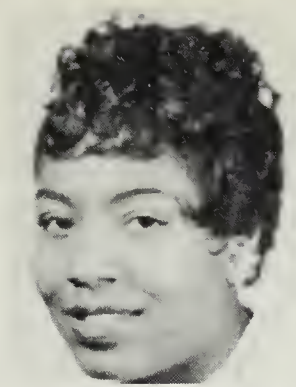
Fuller Sorrell
"A Great Helper"



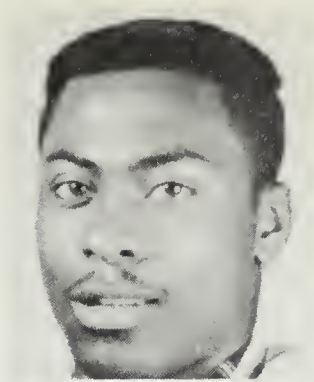
Louis Thompson
"Music Man"



Annie Clayton
"Nice"



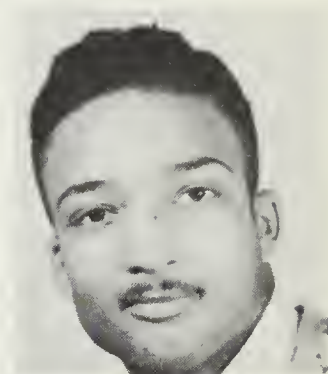
Annette Cupitt
"Petit"



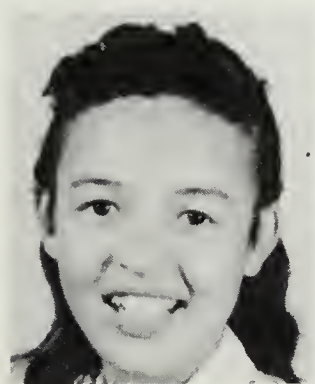
Howard Wood
"Playfully Pleasant"



Frances Veney
"Honor Role Student"



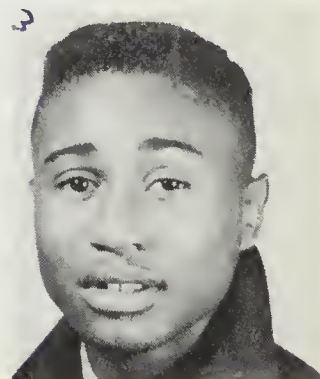
Levern Sydnor
"Top-Notch Athlete"



Shirley Kelly
"Friendly"



Yvonne Thompson
"Personality Plus"



William Cox
"A Fine Musican"



Shirley Brown
"Cute"



Verona Saunders
"A well rounded Student"



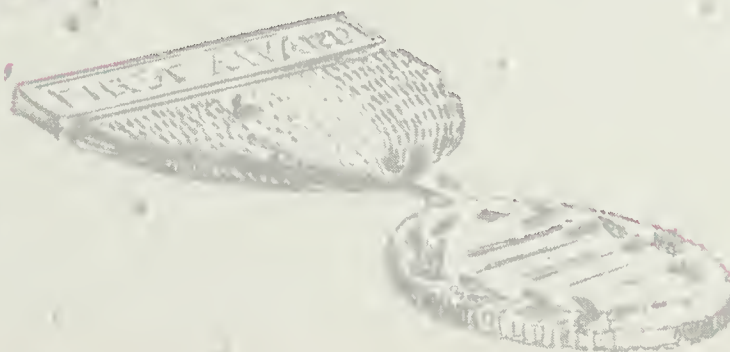
SPORTS



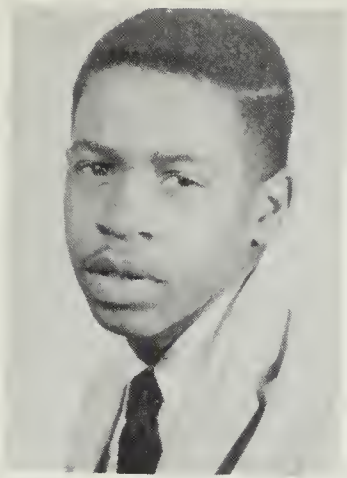
The Baseball Team is under the direction of Mr. Lloyd Saunders. We are hoping for a most successful year.



The Softball Team is coached by Mrs. Virginia Brown. Here's wishing the team luck.



Prizewinners



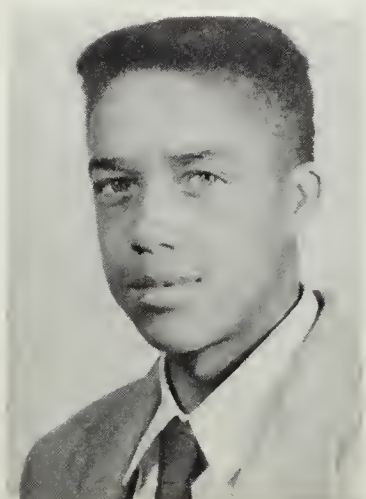
Robert Pratters
"Junior"



Winona Mackey
"Sophomore"

We salute these young people for their performance at the Science-Mathematics Conference. In competition with other boys and girls of this district, these students displayed skills and knowledge that made them a credit to their school.

Winona Mackey ranked 1st. in the area of Elementary Algebra. Ellington Churchill ranked 5th. in Intermediate Algebra. Irene Monroe ranked 3rd. in General Mathematics and Robert Pratters ranked 4th. in Biology. The teacher-advisors for the students were Mrs. Virginia Brown, head of the Science Department and Mr. W. H. Mackey, Principal and higher Mathematics Instructor. Congratulation and best wishes for the state conference.



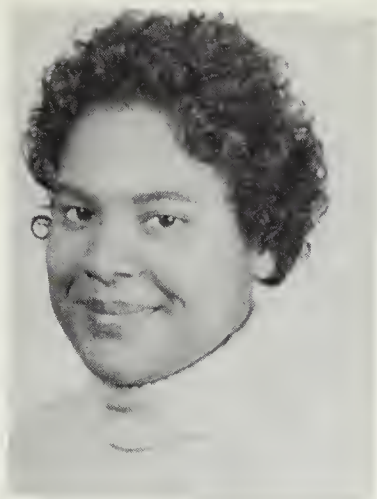
Ellington Churchill
"Senior"



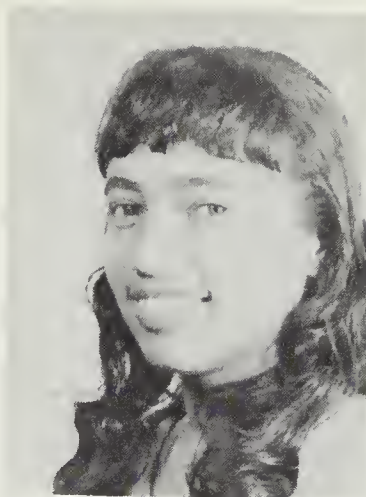
Irene Monroe
"Sophomore"

Drama

Verona Saunders
Senior



Yvonne Thompson
Senior



Helen Maiden
Senior



Sandra Roane
Senior



"The Play is the thing". These young ladies starred in the Award Winning play, "The Bond Between". The play was presented at Ralph Bunche High School. It received a Superior rating, thus making it eligible for presentation at the state festival. The play was presented at Virginia State College on March 21, 1959.

At Ralph Bunche High School, Sandra Roane was named the best actress from all participating groups. Sandra was also awarded the best actress award for 1957-58 for her performance in "Gray Bread". Mrs. Meta Sampson and Mrs. M. L. Pickens are directors.

Queens



Catherine Wood
9th. Grade Contestant

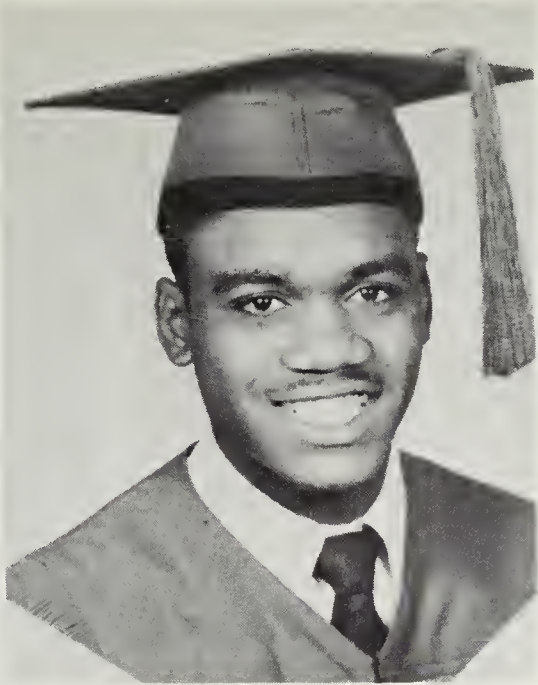
Annie Clayton
10th. Grade Contestant



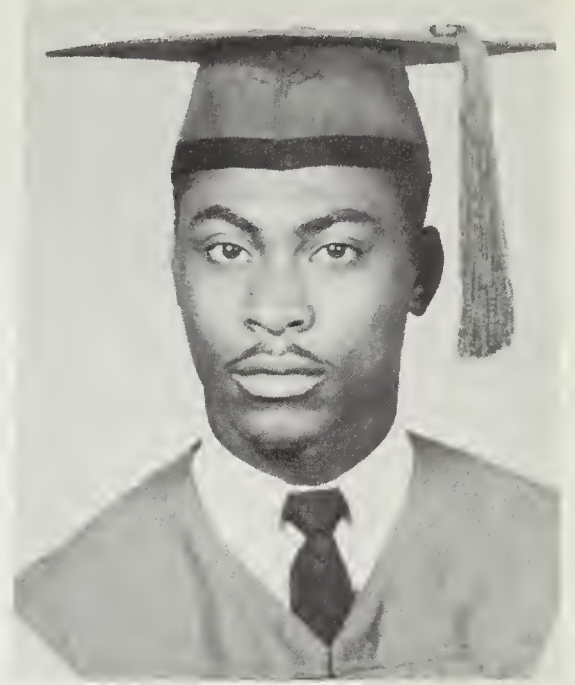
One of these young ladies will be crowned as 'Miss Richmond County High School. That young lady will reign over the May Day Festival. Here's wishing each of you the best of luck.



Yvonne Thompson
12th. Grade Contestant



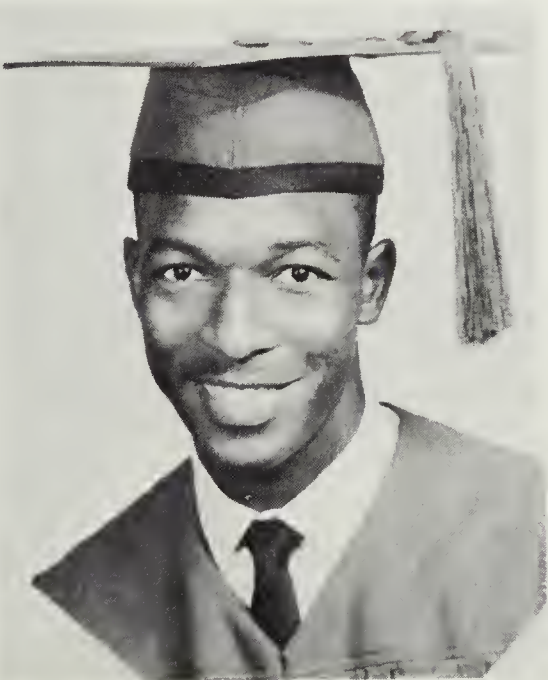
Carrington Woody
"Senior"



Howard Wood
"Senior"

N.F.A. BOYS RATE HIGH

This year the N.F.A. participated in the Chesapeake Federation activities. The N.F.A. is directed by Mr. W. H. Walker. In competition with boys from other counties, Richmond County scored very well. Martimmer Taylor won first place in tool indentification, Robert Pratters, first place in the N.F.A. Quiz, Carrington Woody, second place in the talent contest and Howard Wood, second place in tractor operation. The team from Richmond County won third place in Judging activities. Congratulation for a job well done.



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Robert Pratters
"Junior"



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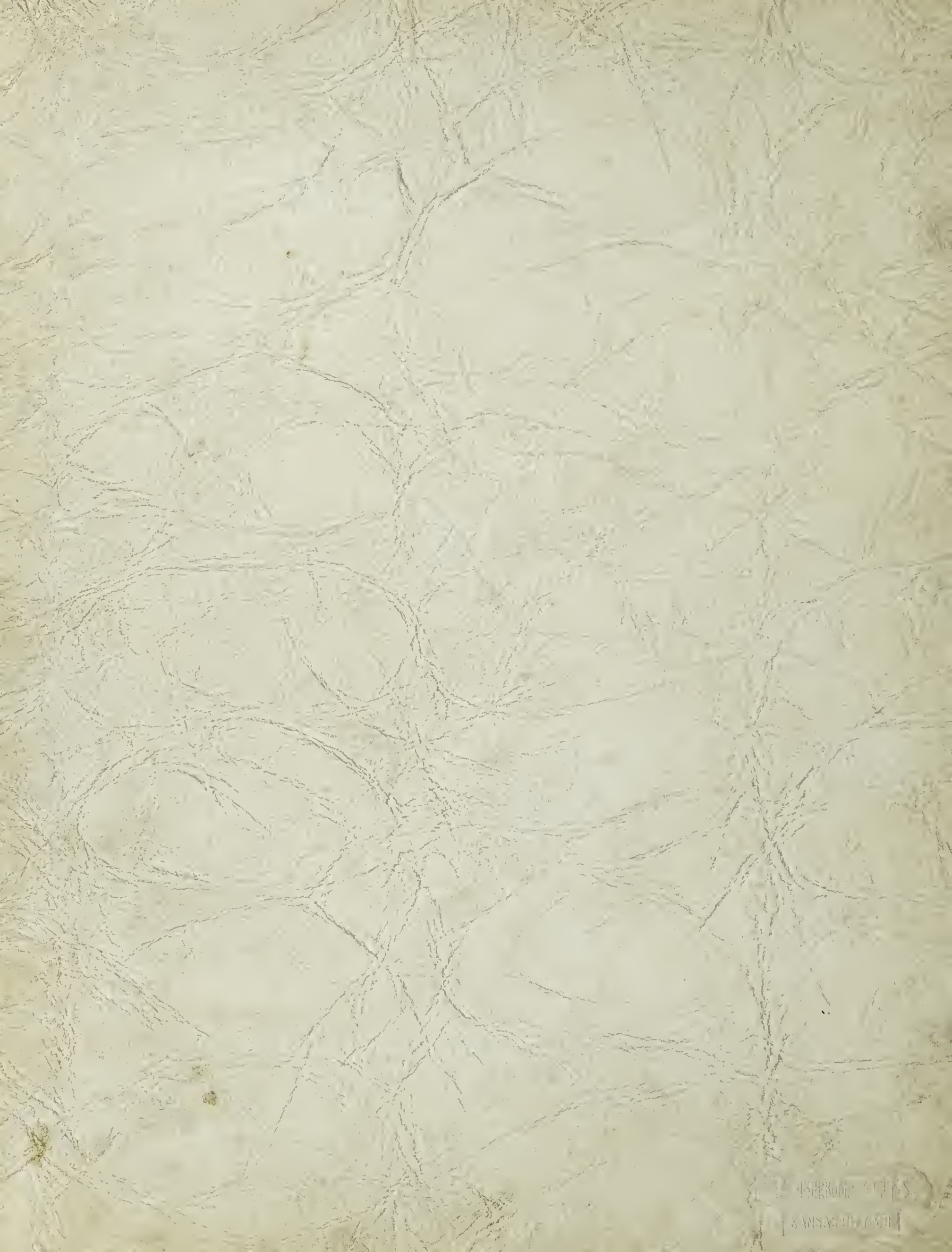


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